

**Remarks**

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 9 and 11 have been amended. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

**Objections under 35 U.S.C 102**

Claims 1, 9 and 11 have now been amended to emphasize the distinction over the new prior art raised by the examiner Hassan (US 2004/0095847). The limitation of a 'thin interface' separating the transducers from the mud channel is described for example in paragraph 0024 of the present application as filed. The interface has the function of preventing against the contents of the mud channel from damaging the transducers while still allowing ultrasonic propagation. No such interface is taught or suggested in Hassan.

Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed January 8, 2008 for which the three-month date for response was April 8, 2008. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicants petition for an extension of time of two months in which to respond to the Office Action. This two month extension will bring the deadline for response to June 8, 2008, which is within the six-month statutory period.

Respectfully submitted,

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